



Martin Community College

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Office of the President

August 21, 2000

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Ms. Salas:

Re: Opposition to Petition for Rulemaking by Satellite Industry Association (SIA), RM-9911

As you know, the ITFS channels have been set aside for educational purposes for many years. In North Carolina and across the nation, community colleges have spent the past five years resolving mutually exclusivity and other issues related to the licensing process. Educators are just now realizing the potential of its use as broadband connectivity to the Internet. To date, 40 North Carolina community colleges have applied to the FCC for ITFS licenses and 16 licenses have been granted. The community colleges in North Carolina have just formed a consortium to cooperatively extend distance learning opportunities to all residents of North Carolina.

The ITFS channels located on the frequency bands proposed in SIA's petition are an integral part of the educational network in North Carolina. I understand that it is proposed that the ITFS channels be integrated with commercial channels to form a broadband wireless network through the state of North Carolina. It appears as though SIA has totally ignored the hundreds of existing licensees and extensive existing operations on the channels.

Since the FCC has made favorable rulings to help companies deploy DSL and cable modem services, I am asking you to consider the educational value of ITFS channels to community colleges when making a decision on SIA's petition.

Sincerely,

Ann R. Britt, Ed.D.
President

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